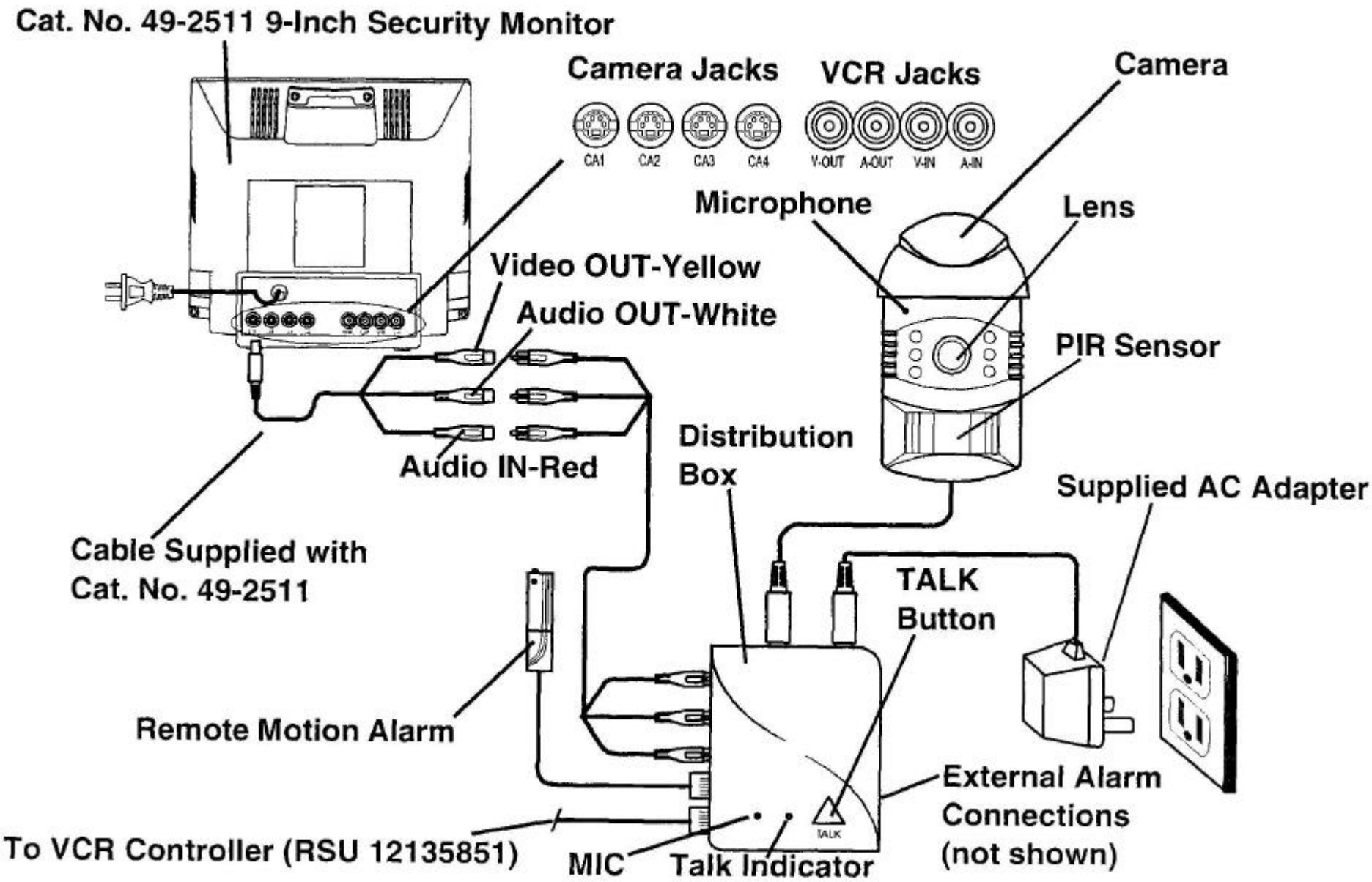MAKING THE CONNECTIONS